IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and provide power to the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the external computing device, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a includes suspending occurrence of a timeout feature.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising transmitting one or more communications from the portable computing device using the external computing device when the external computing device is actively connected to the portable computing device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising coupling a signal line to the external computing device, and determining a type of the external computing device using the signal line.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes selectively suspending the occurrence of the time-out feature when the external computing device is actively coupled.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes disabling the time-out feature while the external computing device is actively coupled.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and providing power includes measuring a voltage level of a signal provided from the external computing device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and providing power includes coupling the portable computing device to the external computing device using a serial connector.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and provide power to the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the signal, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity;

wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes suspending occurrence of a timeout feature; and wherein the method further comprises launching a program that is transferred to the portable computing device through the external computing device once the occurrence of the time-out feature is suspended.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein launching a program includes providing a display content selected from a group of display contents consisting of a world clock, a digital image stored from a digital camera device, and a display of real-time information provided by a data network.

Claims 11-29 CANCELLED

30. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and provide power to the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the external computing device, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity;

wherein detecting that an external computing device is actively connected and providing power to the portable computing device includes coupling one or more signal lines accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to a communication device; and

wherein the method further comprises determining a type of the external computing device from a signal on the one or more signal lines.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising configuring execution of software on the portable computing device based on the type of the external computing device that is determined from the signal on the one or more signal lines.

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34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes operating software to continuously illuminate a display of the portable computing device at a maximum illumination level.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes operating includes operating software to continuously display a digital image on the display of the portable computing device at a maximum illumination level.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:

responsive to a connector of the portable computing device being connected to a connector of an accessory device, receiving on one or more signal lines, one or more signals from the accessory device, the one or more signals including a power signal;

automatically determining a type of accessory device coupled to the portable computing device using a signal on the one or more signal lines; and

responsive to receiving the power signal from the accessory device, suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity; and

responsive to receiving one or more signals from the accessory device, executing at least one program based on the type of accessory device.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes suspending the feature for reducing an intensity of light in a display of the portable computer device.

38. CANCEL

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein automatically determining a type of accessory device coupled to the portable computing device includes determining a level of power that is supplied by the accessory device to the portable computing device.

CLAIMS 40-42: CANCELLED

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes suspending execution of at least the portion of the program that would reduce the power consumption of the portable computing device by altering at least one of a performance or a function of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

44. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

detecting whether an external power is being provided to the portable computing device from a computing device external to the portable computing device;

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption after a given duration of inactivity; else

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program; and

causing the external computing device and the portable computing device to communicate with one another in response to a user-interaction with an interface of the external computing device.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein while the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a display of the portable computing device at a high setting of brightness unless an input is provided from the user to reduce or turn-off the display.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein while the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a content appearing on a display of the portable computing device.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the content corresponds to a digital photograph.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a backlight of a display, after the backlight is turned on, while the external power is being provided.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption includes switching a backlight off a first given duration after the backlight is turned on;

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining the backlight on for at least a duration that is longer than the first given duration.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption includes switching a backlight off a first given duration of inactivity after the backlight is turned on;

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining the backlight on for at least a duration of inactivity that is longer than the first given duration of inactivity.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption after a given duration of inactivity includes placing the portable computing device into a sleep-mode.